

Habitat Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Scofield Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration

Proposal Number: 1085

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Utah

Project Manager: Daniel Eddington

PM Phone: 4356371737

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 09/01/2008

Project Location: Located just north of Scofield Reservoir

Project Description: Increase Greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat by Dixie Harrowing 150 acres of Mountain big sagebrush and seed grasses and forbs into the herbaceous understory.

Description of Problem/Need: Sage-grouse in the Emma Park-Scofield area are considered a non-migratory population (Crompton and Mitchell 2005). Loss of habitat and fragmentation of habitat adjacent to Scofield Reservoir is increasing as development for cabin areas moves forward. The Scofield area provides wintering and brood rearing habitat for sagegrouse and once supported a historic lek about 2 miles south of the treatment, which was lost with the construction of the Scofield Reservoir. With all of the disruptions to the quality of sage grouse habitat, a private landowner would like to improve the habitat quality of a wet meadow that has been encroached by mountain big sagebrush. In a study conducted by Crompton and Mitchell (2005) in Emma Park, wet meadows and riparian habitats were used in great proportions by sage grouse during late summer months, but were also found to be a limiting factor, especially in dry years. A preliminary sample of the sagebrush cover near the wet meadow was estimated at 35-40%. Reducing the sagebrush cover near the wet meadow and thinning small pockets or mosaics within the thick sagebrush would increase the production of grasses, sedges, and forbs to benefit sage grouse. Mule deer and elk also use the area for summer and transition habitat. The increase production of grasses and forbs would greatly add to the quality of these habitats.

Objectives: Increase Greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat by thinning 150 acres of Mountain big sagebrush and seed grasses and forbs into the herbaceous understory. Domestic livestock will also benefit from the treatment.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Castle Country Greater Sage-Grouse Local Conservation Plan (2006)
Greater Sagegrouse are Tier II species and mule deer are Tier III species in the WAP

Potential Risks:

Proposed Methods: The sagebrush will be mechanically thinned into mosaics using a Dixie harrow to reduce mountain big sagebrush cover and increase grass and forb production in and near the wet meadows. The amount of sagebrush cover reduced will be about 20% (roughly 100-150 acres of the total 700 acres) so that the necessary sagebrush cover (25%) recommended for sage grouse is still available. A broadcast seeder attached to the tractor will be used to seed in front of the harrow, which will be used to seed forbs and grasses.

Shapefile Name: HPD2009\GIS Proposals\SER\1085.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 01/15/2008

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Photo plots will be established with the possibility of flushing birds in August 2008 to see how many are using the area. This would be followed up with a flush two years following the project to see if more birds are using the area.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Greater Sage-grouse

Mule Deer

Elk

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	150
Total	150

PROPOSED FUNDING

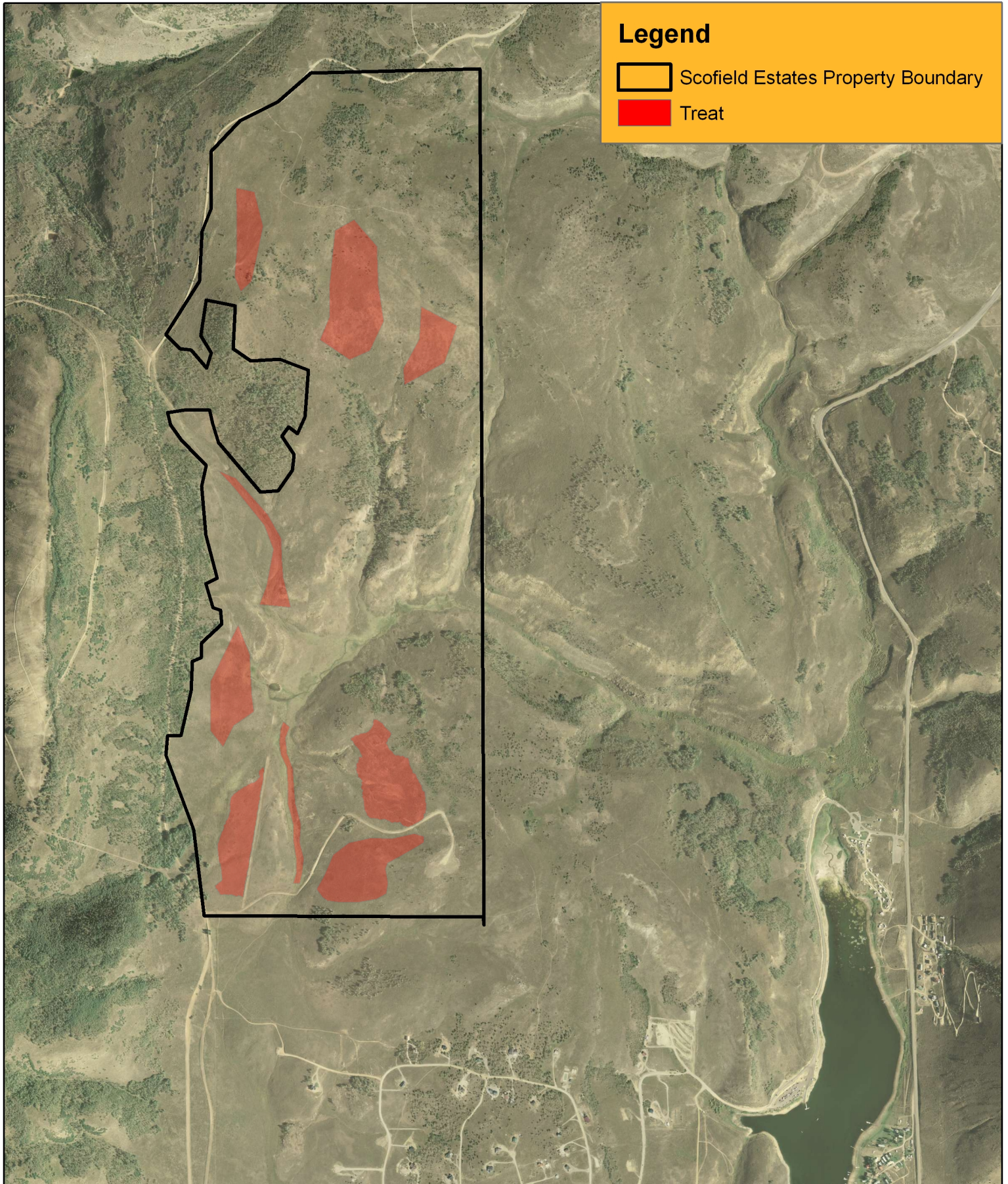
Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
ESMF Sage-grouse	\$25,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$25,000.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	tractor and operator (150 acres @ \$80/acre)	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Equipment transport	mobilization harrow	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Seed (GBRC)	(150 acres @ \$50/acre)	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
Archaeological Survey	(150 acres @ \$30/acre)	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$25,000.00	\$0.00

Project Map:

Scofield Estates Dixie Harrow



Legend

-  Scofield Estates Property Boundary
-  Treat

0.3 0.15 0 0.3 Miles

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